

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

c/o M.R. Friedberg
2537 Claver Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44118
September 15, 1987

NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 1987

Martin Gengerke, Secretary, promised me a copy of the Memphis Meeting minutes for this issue, but as is oft the case, there has been a slip between lip and cup (or something like that). In any case it was a good meeting and decisions concerning the ENCYCLOPEDIA were made. Unfortunately those decisions require that I make new photographs for publication. Photography of this sort simply requires that I set myself the task and apply discipline. The discipline mood has not struck recently so that although the complete rewrite of the ENCYCLOPEDIA text is complete, there it sits. Those of you capable of handling XYWRITE III+ and DBASE III+ computer files are welcome to copies on disk (Send me two 5 1/2 AT 1.2 meg blanks and I will copy the files over for your use).

Dr. Wallace Lee has sent me a Treasurer's report indicating \$1333.95 in the Treasury before this newsletter's expenses. Included is an extra \$10 donation from Dick Balabaton just because he is a nice guy! Four members resigned (Tom Werner, Jackson Storm, Robert O'Connor, and L.B. Fauver) and 18 have not yet paid their \$10 current dues. The following are requested to send their current dues to Dr. W. Lee, Summit Place, Suite 210, Pontiac, Michigan 48053:-

Don Kagin	Jim Raye	Ralph Muller
W.H.Kiefaber, Jr	Dr. John Crowell	Geo. Ganter
Carlton Synder	Glenn Cota	Elvis Foster
Ed Collins	Vince Jones	Tom Scott
Ken Elwell	Gerard Simoneaux	Ted Targoza
John Worsena	Remy Bourne	John Bentley

Enclosed you will find a membership list, a copy of an article from a stamp magazine that I thought would interest you plus a copy of the patent covering a "Fractional Currency Envelope". The Patent copy Xerox's are courtesy of John And Nancy Wilson who are the proud owners of a copy of the Patent.

There were no major discoveries of Fractional to report. Member Benny Bolin has been diligently scouring the records for data on Spencer M. Clark in preparation for an article. He has assembled a brief chronology of Clark's record that should interest us all, ie,
August 1856 to May 1860- Chief Clerk
May 1860- Acting Engineer
August 29, 1862- Official 1st Superintendent, National Currency Bureau
July 10, 1862- 1st Congressional Committee investigation on Treasury extension.
June 30, 1864- Investigation by Garfield Committee of Congress
March, 1867- 3rd Congressional Investigation
November 17, 1867- Resigned at request of 3rd Congressional Investigation Committee. Joined U.S. Department of Agriculture as Compiler and Copyist in the Statistical Division.

Circa 1889- Promoted to Chief Clerk, Statistical Division. /
December 10, 1890- Died. Buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Hartford, Connecticut.

END OF NEWSLETTER...

M.R. Friedberg.

Ink and paper problems plague computer-generated album pages

The subject of album pages provokes more interest and generates more letters than most others I write about.

J.D.M. von Weinberg warned about oily inks used in the rib-

Computers & Stamps

By William F. Sharpe

hons of dot matrix printers in a Linn's Readers' Opinions letter of May 4. The ink used generally contains lubrication for the pins which print the dots in the printer characters. He suggests using photocopies of the pages.

Boh Williams takes exception to this approach in a reply published in the May 25 issue. Williams uses a conventional printer to make identification tags.

He inserts these tags in glassine envelopes with stamps. He cautions against the use of any thermographic printing process for the preparation of album pages.

Williams takes two precautions with his tags. He turns the printed face away from the stamp in the glassine envelope and he doesn't use a fresh ribbon in his printer.

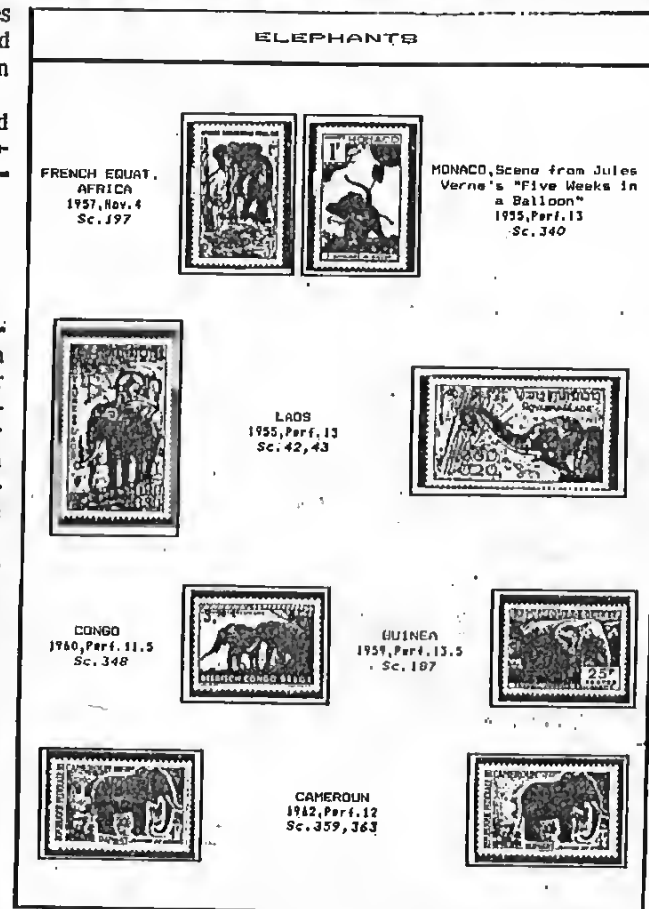
I tend to agree with Williams. If you are preparing a computer-generated album page with a dot-matrix printer, I suggest that you test the printout on a draft copy.

If a thumbprint smudges the ink on the paper, you have either a ribbon or a paper problem.

You also should use protective plastic mounts for your stamps rather than stamp hinges, especially if you include any printed matter in the block where the stamp will be placed.

There also has been some concern expressed about paper for album pages. Most continuous paper is not heavy enough (it's about 18 pound weight) or suitable for long-term storage.

The paper may become brittle and turn yellow with age.



A sample topical album page from the Stampage program.

Most ordinary paper has high acidity, which will damage stamps over time, given the right combination of heat and humidity.

JBFI Archival Paper supplies continuous-form, acid-free Permalife paper, which has a guarantee of a 400-year life expectancy under archival storage conditions and 100-year expectancy under normal conditions.

It is comparable to paper made with 100-percent cotton, but its cost is similar to that made with 25-percent cotton.

The paper is available in shrink-wrapped packages of 125, in quantities of 10 for \$8.13 and in boxes of 2,500 for \$92.50. It also is available in single sheets that can be used in laser printers. The single sheets come in packages of 500 for \$12.50 each in 10-ream quantities.

Contact JBFI Archival Paper, 20 Millpark Court, Box 42,

St. Louis, Mo. 63043-0042, for shipping charges and additional information.

William Vodyanitsky has written a compiled BASIC program named Stampage, which provides an almost unlimited variety of arrangements for personally designed album pages.

Pages can be designed using two different methods, either with the description lines above the set of stamps or the descriptions provided next to each stamp, as in the sample page shown.

The program isn't menu-driven, which means there's no screen display with a list of options to choose from. The user is guided through a set of prompts, with "Y" or a number expected as the response for most questions.

Available typefaces are roman or italic with print modes available for pica, elite,

expanded, or double-strike each line entered.

Available stamp frames are rectangular, round and triangular. You put the vertex of the triangle on either the bottom or top.

The program provides control of the page size, margin, and the stamp frame to stamp size ratio. You can control the vertical justification — central or top for each set or row. You also specify the number rows, the size of the stamp frames, and the number stamps per row.

There are so many options available that the entry of the various information can become complex. The program doesn't let you go back and change a previous entry so it's pretty much a trial and error effort on your part to a pleasing display with the correct size.

You probably should make a pencil sketch before attempting to run through the program prompts. There is no graphical screen display of what your page will look like. You have to print it out, probably several times, to check the appearance.

Stampage is available from William Vodyanitsky, 27 Cottonwood Road, Newington, Conn. 06111. The price is \$15 plus \$3 shipping.

The program requires IBM PC, XT, AT or compatible computer with a minimum memory of 128K, PC DOS 2.0 or later, and Epson or IBM dot matrix printer.

I'd be leery of other printers that claim to be Epson-IBM-compatible. The program addresses the graphics mode of the printer to draw the stamp frames. This is one area where printers become quite incompatible with software.

READ
Substitute
"FRACTIONAL
CURRENCY" FOR
"STAMPS" !!

United States Patent Office.

FISK MILLS, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF, MARCUS P. NORTON, OF TROY, NEW YORK, AND GEORGE H. PENFIELD, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

Letters Patent No. 91,473, dated June 15, 1869.

POSTAL-CURRENCY ENVELOPE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FISK MILLS, of the city and county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new, useful, and valuable improvements relating to the postal service of the United States of America, and which I denominate "Cancel-Abolishing Return-Postage-Stamp Envelope," or "Postal Currency," and which is for use by the Post Office Department, and which may also be used as "postal currency" in the country; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being hereby had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of these specifications.

The accompanying drawings show and represent, or illustrate, one of my said "cancel-abolishing return-postage-stamp or envelope-currency," which may be used as currency and for the prepayment of postage upon a letter to the amount of three cents, having and containing suitable lines and ornamentations printed upon the entire surface or face of the same.

The main purpose or object of my said invention and improvements, is to produce a postage-stamp of sufficient size and form, and with suitable design or ornamentation. They may be folded into an envelope to receive any letter, then sealed therein, addressed, and posted, and which shall be cancelled at the time, and by the means of the address or superscription, or by other and necessary writing upon the same, when so folded, substantially as shown at *a a a* of the accompanying drawings.

The denomination or value of such postage-stamp or postal-envelope currency, is indicated by the numeral or figure 3, printed upon and across the said superscription-lines *a a a*, as shown at *b*, of the said drawings, and at the same time the following words are printed upon such postal-envelope currency, at some convenient and suitable place, to wit, "three cents," and such words will, in all cases, correspond with the sum, amount, or value represented by the figure or numeral printed thereon.

At or near the upper left-hand corner, I arrange the directions necessary to or for a return of the said postal-currency envelope or envelope postage-stamp, with the contents therein, to the person writing the same, or to any other person or persons whose name or names shall have been written thereupon. The business-card of the person using such postal-currency envelope or envelope postage-stamp, may be printed thereon in any suitable or desirable form, while just below the same, may be the portrait of the Postmaster General, or of any other person, design, or thing deemed best so to represent, or instead thereof there may be any other suitable design there to serve as a "vignette" on such envelope-currency.

The return directions aforesaid named, and also said business-card or business-advertisement will be so printed thereon at *c* and *d*, and such portrait or likeness and "vignette," will be so printed thereon at *e* of the accompanying drawings.

Upon the right-hand side or end of such "postal-envelope currency" or "envelope postage-stamp," I arrange the figure or numeral 3, in or within a star-shaped or other style or form of design, substantially as shown at *f* of the said drawings.

Above the said design *f*, and above the said superscription or address-lines *a a a*, I arrange and print the title or style of the envelope or currency, substantially as shown at *g* of the same drawings. Any other and suitable designs, forms, or figures, or words necessary in order to successfully carry out my said invention and improvements, may be used and printed, or otherwise impressed thereon, which, when done, shall be substantially the same as my "postal-envelope currency," or "envelope postage-stamp."

I make my said postal-envelope currency or envelope postage-stamp, in size large enough to admit of being folded so as to form the envelope of any desirable or any suitable size or style for use in the reception of printed or written letters for transportation in and through the mails. I print upon all that part or surface forming the front of the said postal-envelope currency or envelope postage-stamp, when folded into the required form of an envelope, ready for use or for the reception of the letter to be transmitted therein as aforesaid, the design, letters, words, figures, lines, and form shown in and by the accompanying drawings, or substantially the same, whereby to carry out in a successful manner the object and purpose of my said invention and improvements, aforesaid described and set forth, and as contained in the accompanying drawings.

The said "postal-envelope currency" or "envelope postage-stamp," thus constructed, may be of any size or denomination required, and the same will serve the double purpose of a stamp for the payment of postage on letters, circulars, &c., and an envelope, and therefore the same has been named and styled as hereinbefore set forth.

The said postal-envelope currency or envelope postage-stamp, will be cut into the required form or shape for folding, and thereafter the aforesaid described design or engraving shown by the accompanying drawings, and containing my said invention and improvements, will be printed or otherwise impressed thereupon, when the same will be folded into the form and size of an envelope in some suitable manner, and by any suitable and convenient means, and then the respective parts of the same will be gummed and fixed ready for use in the postal service.

The advantages of such postal-envelope currency or

envelope postage-stamp, are many. Writing the address or superscription upon the same, serves for the full, perfect, and permanent cancellation, and thus and thereby prevents fraud upon the postal revenue by a second or re-use of postage-stamps. This address or superscription is so put upon such envelope-currency or envelope postage-stamp, before the letter is posted, and the postmaster, when the same is thus posted, has only to inspect the same, to see the address or superscription aforesaid, and is thereafter saved the time, labor, and expense of cancelling the postage-stamp by some instrument now used for that purpose upon all other kinds of postage-stamps, whether the same be permanently upon such envelope, or affixed thereto, and such as now in use by the Post Office Department in this country. Business-men may purchase my said "postal-envelope currency" or "envelope postage-stamp," of the Postmaster General, and keep the same on hand for use as change in the transaction of their business, which is not only a great convenience to them, but it would have great influence in increasing the use of such envelopes by those doing business in and through the mails, which would be a very desirable thing on the part of the Post Office Department, and it would also serve as a great means in lessening and cheapening the postage upon letters and all matter where the same may be used.

If the person using my said postal-envelope currency or envelope postage-stamp for transmitting of letters or other matter in the mails, shall not wish or desire the return of the same, then such person may omit to write or print such request for return, upon said envelope, or in place of such request, such person may write or print the following words, to wit, "not returned," as the case may be.

My said postage-stamp or currency may be of any size required by the Postmaster General.

When letters are desired to be returned, the post-

mark upon said envelope will serve to show or indicate the post office to which such letter is to be so returned.

There may be, if deemed best, some suitable design printed upon the back side or upon the flaps of my said envelope postage-stamp or postal-envelope currency; but it is not essential in order to successfully carry out the object and purposes of my said invention and improvement, which also will serve to guard against and prevent counterfeiting upon the postal service, as well as serve to prevent all attempts at fraud upon the postal revenue by a second or re-use of the postage-stamp. The postage-stamp being the envelope, and the envelope being the postage-stamp, the cancellation of the same must be certain, complete, and permanent, in the manner and by the means substantially as herein described and set forth.

Having thus described my said invention and improvements,

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A postage-stamp-envelope currency constructed, arranged, and combined in the manner and for the purposes substantially as herein described and set forth.

2. Also, a postage-stamp folded into an envelope of the requisite size to receive letters for mailing, and having the postage-stamp so printed, and impressed, and arranged thereon, that it shall be cancelled in the manner and by the means substantially as herein described and set forth.

In testimony whereof, I have, on this 2d day of June, 1869, hereto set my hand, in the presence of two witnesses, to wit—

FISK MILLS.

Witnesses:

F. W. DOW,
O. M. SWANY.

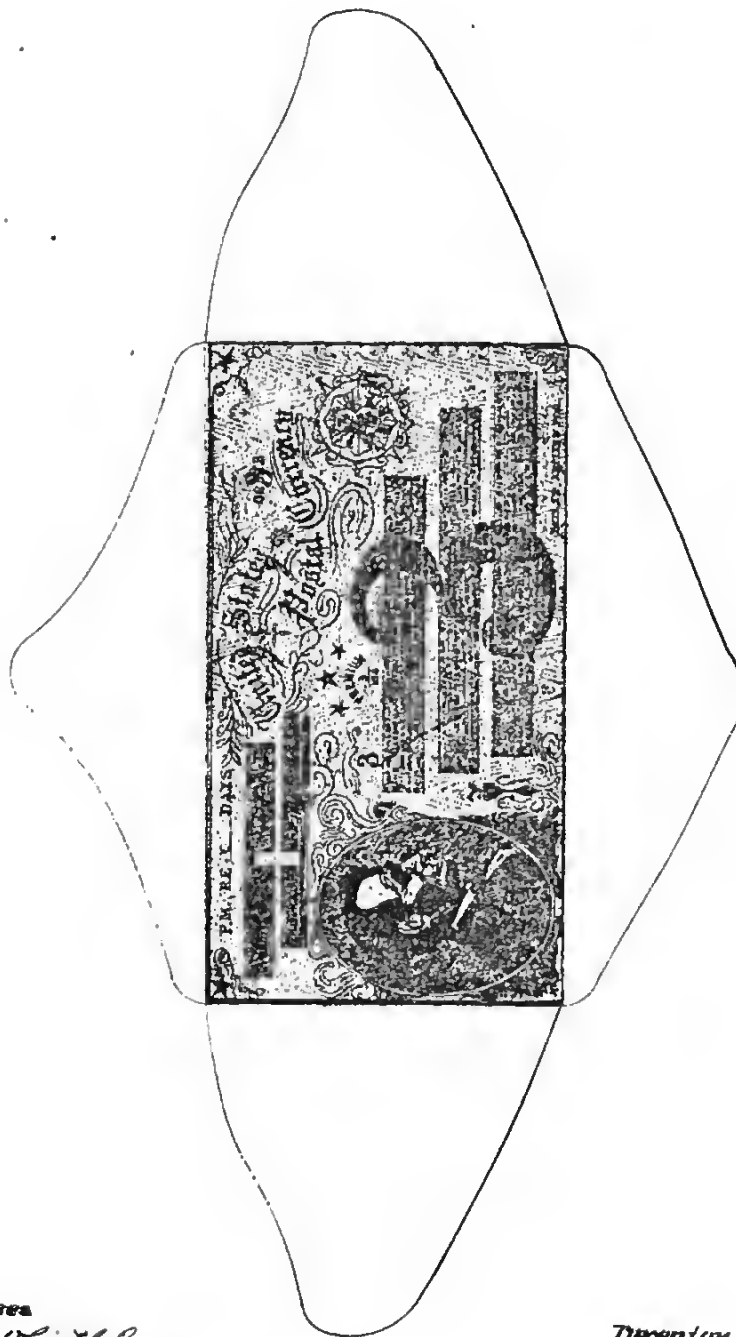
F. Mills,

2. Sheets. Sheet. 1.

Postal Currency Envelope.

No. 91,473.

Patented June 15. 1869



Witnesses

Edw. Luffin
Boon Chamberlain

Inventor,

Fisk Mills

F. Mills,

2. Streets. Street. 2.

Postal Currency Envelope.

No. 91,473.

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Witnesses,

*Edw. Griffin
Born Chamberlain*

Inventor

Fisk Mills